



LOOK
INSIDE FOR
DETAILS:

- The RARS General Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of each month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 pm on 146.64.
- The RARS Technical and Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 pm or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**

August 2007

Issue No. 437

RARS 2007 Field Day

Article by Neal Fisher N4HAF RARS Field Day Chair

At this year's field day, RARS once again competed in the 7A classifications with a GOTA (Get On The Air) station. We're pleased to announce that our results were a marked improvement over last year's. The 2006 winner's score was 9,100, so hopefully we have a good chance of winning this year. Here are our results for 2007:

Total score = 9,220
Total QSO's = 3,224
Total CW/Digital Q's = 986
Total Phone Q's = 2,238

Once again, the 40-meter phone station led the pack with nearly 1400 QSO's. The 80-meter phone and 40 CW stations made strong contributions.



Above: Neal N4HAF at the 40 CW.



Below: Dale W4AUV, Bob NA4G, and Charlie W4VFJ set up the 40 CW tent.

Above: Bobby W4RPC, Bob K4RLC, Bob NA4G, and Dale W4AUV at the Field Day dinner.



The event was hosted by Jim and Beth Carrol at their farm in Apex. Thanks to both of them for being such gracious hosts. We are also very grateful to Vianne Pendleton for arranging the Saturday evening BBQ dinner and Sunday brunch.

Finally, thanks to all of you who participated and helped organize this year's successful event.

RARS Officers

President:

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kg4rmt@earthlink.net

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

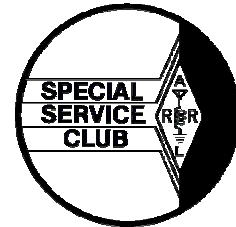
The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in

times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

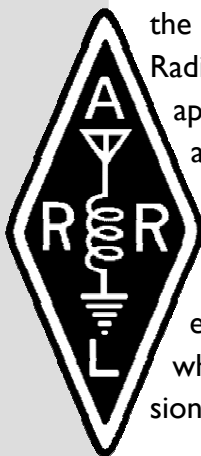
Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Due for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed ama-

teurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or the RARS website (RARS.org).



The Exciter



The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available.

Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcomes articles, advertising, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those

of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

Editor:

Courtney Enzor
KI4HOS
courtney_enzor@yahoo.com

Upcoming SKYWARN Spotter Dinner

All weather enthusiasts are invited to join us for the Central Carolina Spotter Dinner on Tuesday, August 28 at 6:30 pm at the Golden Corral Restaurant on 6129 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. The dinner will begin at 6:30 pm and the program at 7:00 pm.



The special guest speaker will be State Climatologist Dr. Ryan Boyles. Dr. Boyles will conduct training on CoCoRaHS and provide an overview of the state climatology office.

What is CoCoRaHS? It's a new program for volunteer weather observers set to begin September 1 in North Carolina. According to the state climatology website, "CoCoRaHS is an acronym for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. CoCoRaHS is a unique, non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow)." Who will use the collected data? There will be numerous users, including the National Weather Service, hydrologists, emergency managers, city utilities (water supply, water conservation, storm water, etc.), insurance adjusters, USDA, engineers, and teachers. To learn more about CoCoRaHS, please visit <http://cocoahs.org/>.

Come to the SKYWARN dinner, receive training, and learn how you can participate in this exciting new program!

For further details, please contact SKYWARN Emergency Coordinator Virginia Enzor NC4VA at nc4va@nc.rr.com.

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: Forest Hills Baptist Church
201 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607

Time: People begin arriving at 7 pm.
The meeting officially starts at 7:30 pm.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family — feel free to bring your little ones!

Golden Corral @ 6129 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSfest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

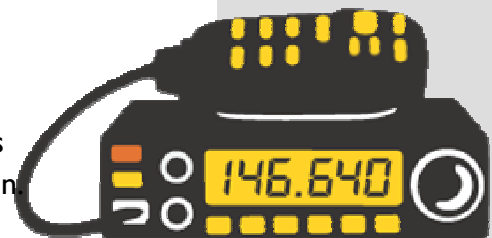
RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.13 (82.5 PL)

146.64

444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 pm on the 146.64. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check-in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.



Public Service Opportunities

MS Bike Tour

The MS Bike Tour (formerly the MS150) will take place on the weekend of September 8 – 9. The event will again be held in New Bern, NC. We've been asked to provide communications support for the more than 1000 riders (1800 are anticipated) who will ride on 30-, 75-, and 100-mile courses each day. All are raising money to support the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Bruce Arnold N8UTY from New Bern is coordinating hams for this event. Please drop him an email at brucen8uty@gmail.com and place MS BIKE TOUR in the subject line. Please copy me (kd4isc@arrl.net) on this email, so that I can keep track of the local hams participating. Let Bruce know of any particular radio jobs you are interested in (SAG vehicle, rest stop, shadow) as well as any 2 meter and/or 440 radio equipment you have. Also let him know if you have any First Aid/CPR certifications.

This year we must all officially register with the MS Society. This can be done at http://bikenct.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr_id=5520.

The registration process for volunteers will have you sign up for a \$100 fundraising goal. You will not be expected or required to raise money for this event. Check the "Ham Radio" box on the volunteer job page.

Hotel accommodations are tight. Check out <http://www.visitnewbern.com/accommodations.htm> for a list of hotels. Don't trust the online reservation systems; rooms have been blocked out for MS Bike Tour participants and all appear full — most actually are. Havelock may be your best alternate location. Call hotels directly and mention that you're with the event (this will give you access to any available rooms blocked out for the MS Bike Tour, as well as any special rates that are available). Camping is available at the park located near the convention center.

The City of Oaks Marathon

The City of Oaks Marathon will be held on November 4th in the Raleigh area.

Hams are needed to provide communications support for this event. Details for the marathon can be found at <http://www.cityofoaksmarathon.com/>.

Bill Cole KG4CXY with the Carolina Helping Hams is coordinating the ham radio effort. Please contact him via the Helping Hams website (<http://www.hampublicservice.org/>) to volunteer.

President's Corner

**Column by Selene Montgomery KG4RMT
RARS President**

Another busy month has come and gone. From all indications, Field Day was a success. Thanks to Neal Fisher N4HAF and his helpers for another great weekend.

The Firecracker 100K and 50K Bike Ride went off very smoothly with 1041 riders participating. Several RARS members helped by providing communications via amateur radio. Other than calamity events, which none of us want to happen, these public service opportunities may be the only way that the average citizen sees ham radio at work. Help out when you can.

The Technician license class is under way through the guidance of Virginia Enzor NC4VA and her assistants. This class has been dedicated to the memory of Dick Bitner W8HYD, who helped so many with that first step into amateur radio. We look forward to welcoming a new group of hams by the middle of August.

The largest hamfest in North Carolina – the Shelby Hamfest – is coming up Labor Day weekend. This year, the event will be a 3-day show – Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. There's something for everyone to be found at Shelby, and some good deals as well.

Keep informed as to what's happening in the local amateur radio world by visiting the RARS website, listening to the nets and radio traffic, and reading the *Exciter*. You're sure to find an event that will interest you. As always, the club appreciates your support.

Welcome New RARS Members!

Doug Smallen
Dave Berry

No License
K4DMB

Hamfest Calendar

August 4	Hamfest Roanoke, VA
August 11	Hamfest Fayetteville, NC
August 18-19	ARRL National Convention Huntsville, AL
August 25-26	West Virginia ARRL Convention Weston, WV
September 1-2	Shelby "The Granddaddy of them All" Fest Shelby, NC

Dates courtesy of *SERA Repeater Journal* and other sources. If you would like your even listed in the *Exciter*, please contact the Editor.

August Birthdays

Clement	KD4BMA	8/8
Mel	K4FEP	8/8
Doug	N3VEJ	8/9
Andy	NI4S	8/10
Nola	KD4OLZ	8/12
Jim	WD8MZR	8/13
Paul	AE4MN	8/15
Bernard	W4BRB	8/17
Al	KE4IHX	8/20
Randy	KI4BRZ	8/20
Red	AC4QX	8/21
Steve	N4BTS	8/22
Barry	KD4WTI	8/22
Steve	KJ4BX	8/23
Hal	K4NKR	8/24
Don	KF4REB	8/28
Edward	N4SSU	8/29
Charlie	W4VFJ	8/30
Chet	KG4IYS	8/30

June 2007 RARS Net Reports

RARS Two Meter Traffic/Ragchew Net
Check-ins: 446
Traffic: 25/20
Minutes: 707
Sessions: 30

Special Interest Nets
Check-ins: 70
Minutes: 510
Sessions: 13

Upcoming RARS Programs

August: Emergency Preparedness
and Battery Backup

September: Advanced SKYWARN
Spotter Training

Minutes of the RARS Board of Directors Meeting for June 2007

The Board of Directors meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on June 19, 2007 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Attendance: Board – Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, Hank Montgomery K4HM, Chuck Littlewood K4HF, Mary Jo Littlewood K4MJL, Charlie Swindell WB4DCM, Rick Kelly-Crapse KB4TKQ, Greg Seamster KE4PAX, Gary Pearce KN4AQ, Rod Thomson KI4LSN, Virginia Enzor NC4VA and Dick Orander KD4ISC.

President Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

On a motion from Charlie WB4DCM and a second from Virginia NC4VA, the May Board meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Officers' Reports

President's report – Selene KG4RMT advised the RARSfest workers' party was held this past weekend and Field Day will be on the weekend of June 23 – 24.

Vice President's report – Rick KB4TKQ provided the following information:

- Donations for meeting refreshments are still helping to offset costs to the club.
- Field Day preparations are nearing completion. A Cub Scout troop has been invited to attend our Field Day location.
- The July program on Emergency Preparedness by Johnnie Mayfield WA9SZL has been moved to August to allow Gerry Cohen N4GC to talk about the recent passage of House Bill 1340 – “The Amateur Radio Antenna Bill.”
- The September program will be an Advanced SKYWARN Spotter training class and will require an early start to the meeting.

(Continued on next page)

Board Meeting - June 2007

Board Meeting - June 2007

Treasurer's report – Selene KG4RMT reported the following on behalf of Greg KE4PAX:

- There are 266 club members.
- It is membership renewal time.

Committee Reports

Education – Virginia NC4VA announced the Technician class has been scheduled for the Saturdays of July 14, 28 and August 11 from 9 am until Noon. The VE testing session will be held on August 11 from 1 – 3 pm. The class will be held at the First Alliance Church off of Buffalo Road. Instructors are still needed to help teach several chapters for the class.

Exciter – Virginia NC4VA reported the submission deadline for the July Exciter is Thursday, June 21. Articles are still needed for the newsletter.

Webmaster – Selene KG4RMT informed the group that updates are still in the works for the club's webpage. Hank K4HM has been providing assistance with these changes.

Hamfest – Hank K4HM advised there was a good turnout for the RARSfest workers' party. Everyone had a good time.

Public Service – Dick KD4ISC announced that 6 positions have been filled for the July 4th Firecracker Bike ride. A coordinator is still needed for this event. He reported on a safety and crisis review meeting that he attended for the September MS150. Bruce Arnold N8UTY is coordinating the hams for the MS150. Dick has agreed to help with recruiting from our area. All hams will have to formally sign-up as volunteers with the MS Society.

Virginia NC4VA expressed some concern over the noise present on the 145.13 repeater during the MARA net. Gary KN4AQ advised he was aware of noise problems with this repeater and offered the 146.64 repeater as a substitute if needed.

PIO – Gary KN4AQ reported that he has provided the media with a Field Day press release.

(Continued on next page)

Board Meeting - June 2007

Old Business

Gary KN4AQ advised he is still trying to make contact to pick up the hard-line donation that was discussed in last month's meeting.

There was no progress on the ham workshop idea discussed in last month's meeting. An article or email list solicitation of ideas from the membership has not been done. No one has stepped forward to coordinate this endeavor.

The club picnic was discussed again. There is interest in this activity. Rick KB4TKQ will pursue a date in September or October.

New Business

Chuck K4HF presented the idea of sponsoring a brick for the ARRL Diamond Terrace campaign. The sponsorship would require an initial donation of \$250. Donations for following years are flexible (no set amount is required). After a brief discussion, Chuck made a motion for the club to donate \$250 for sponsoring a brick for the ARRL Diamond Terrace. The lettering for the brick will be decided at a later date and future donations to the Diamond Terrace will be determined with each year's budget. The initial \$250 donation will come out of the 2007 – 2008 fiscal year budget. Charlie WB4DCM provided a second and the vote carried in favor of the motion.

Selene KG4RMT announced that the July general meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 3. There was no interest expressed in the June meeting for changing or cancelling the July meeting date.

General Comments

Dick KD4ISC advised he will not be present at the July general meeting and will need help covering the minutes. Selene KG4RMT said she would take care of covering details for the minutes of the meeting.

Virginia NC4VA reported that she has been accepted to the ARRL Teacher Institute classes on wireless technology.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Submitted by Dick Orander KD4ISC, Secretary

General Meeting - July 2007

Minutes of the RARS General Meeting for July 2007

The general meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on July 3, 2007 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

President Selene Montgomery KG4RMT called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

The following guest was recognized and welcomed to the meeting: Clyde Carl WB2EYC.

Greg Seamster KE4PAX provided the Treasurer's report. There were 275 RARS members at the end of the 2006/2007 membership year, and currently 155 members for the 2007/2008 membership year. He reminded the group that it is membership renewal time and that dues can be paid in person, by mail or via the RARS website. Greg also reported that a \$1000.00 donation had been received from the Dick Bitner Benevolent Fund.

Announcements:

- The next Board meeting will be July 17, at 7 pm. All are invited to attend.
- Hamfests: July 7 – Salisbury, July 16 – Cary.
- The next RARS dinner will be next Tuesday at 6:30 pm at the Golden Corral on Glenwood Avenue. All are invited to attend.
- Traders Table – Remember to check out the table in the front of the room each meeting for give-aways, bargains, etc.

Virginia Enzor announced that the next amateur radio technician class will be held in the memory of Dick Bitner. These classes will be held on Saturday July 14, 18 and August 11 at the First Alliance Church located on Buffaloe Road in Raleigh. The VE session for the class will be held on the August 11 date. Flyers with additional details are available on the trader's table. Instructors will be Jeff Wittich AC4ZO, Dick Orander, KD4ISC, and Mike Murphy WA4BPJ. There are currently 19 students scheduled with a cap of 25 students. The cost will be \$25 per student.

Virginia then provided information on upcoming Skywarn nets. The net will meet on the 146.88 repeater at 9:15 pm.

Selene provided information on upcoming public service events. The Fourth

General Meeting - July 2007

of July Firecracker 100K Bike Event will start early Wednesday morning. The group was reminded to consider volunteering to support the MS150 bike ride in New Bern again this year. The event will be held the weekend of September 8 and 9. Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) will be held in October. The location will be St. Andrews Church in Apex, and the contacts are Chris and Rod Thomson. The City of Oaks Marathon will be held November 4th, and will be coordinated by Carolina Helping Hams.

Selene recognized Rick Kelly-Crapse KB4TKQ for handling the refreshments for the meetings.

Bob Conder K4RLC provided a comment about Field Day that RARS should have a very strong showing in 7A nationwide.

Rick Kelly-Crapse KB4TKQ noted that a Special Event Station would be on the air at the end of the month from the Oshkosh Air Station, at the Oshkosh Air Show in Oshkosh, WI.

Rick Kelly-Crapse KB4TKQ introduced the program presenter – Gerry Cohen N4GC who provided information on House Bill 1340 concerning antenna codes covenants, and restrictions. Gary Pearce also provided information. Gerry suggested that City and Counties should be requested to make changes in their ordinances to comply with House Bill 1340.

Next months program will be emergency preparedness, and battery backup presented by Johnnie Mayfield WA9SZL

Door prizes were won by Virginia Enzor NC4VA and Gerry Cohen N4GC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.
Attendance: 38

Minutes were taken by Greg Seamster KE4PAX.
Submitted by Dick Orander KD4ISC, RARS Secretary.



The **RARS Technical & Trader's net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.64 after the 8 pm RARS net.

Amateur Radio Nets



The **VOIP Hurricane net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 net** every Monday night at 7:30 pm. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Costal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

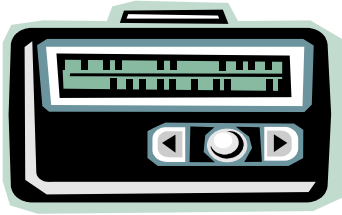


CAROLINA 440
UHF Link System
www.carolina440.net

If you would like your net information included in the *Exciter*, please contact the Editor.

The **PCTN (Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 pm on the 146.88. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check-in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 machine with a PL tone of 82.5.





Join the **Tarheel Short Wave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG)** net on Monday evenings @ 9 pm on 146.64. We discuss *all* areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 pm on the 146.88 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

Upcoming CCS Information nets include:

July 31—"Storm Ready" with Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX.

August 7—"Experimental Lightning Forecasting" with NWS Lead Forecaster Gail Hartfield.

Other events include:

August 28—SKYWARN Dinner @ 6:30-8 pm, Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh, NC.

September 4—"Advanced Spotter Training" @ 7 pm. Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Forest Hills Baptist Church, Dixie Trail, Raleigh, NC.



The Mercury Amateur Radio Association Southeast 2

Meter Net meets at 9 pm every Sunday evening on the 145.13 repeater (tone 82.5). All stations are invited to participate in this net. MARA provides emergency communication support to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The purpose of this net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet.



The **Wake County ARES net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.88 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of Emergency Communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. www.wakeares.org.

MERCURY
AMATEUR
RADIO
ASSOCIATION **MARA**

The RARS
Exciter

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc
PO Box 17124
Raleigh, North Carolina 27619

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2007 RARS Field Day

